



Very Strong Winds and Severe Storms Likely

December 15, 2021
4:22 AM

Key Messages

- Widespread non-thunderstorm high winds are anticipated with gusts of 55 to 75 mph.
- Damage to trees and downed power lines, with some power outages anticipated. Travel impacts with high profile vehicles. Loose objects will be blown around.
- Fast moving line of severe thunderstorms expected with damaging winds likely. Tornadoes also possible.
- Any fires that start may spread quickly. Blowing dust and low visibilities possible.

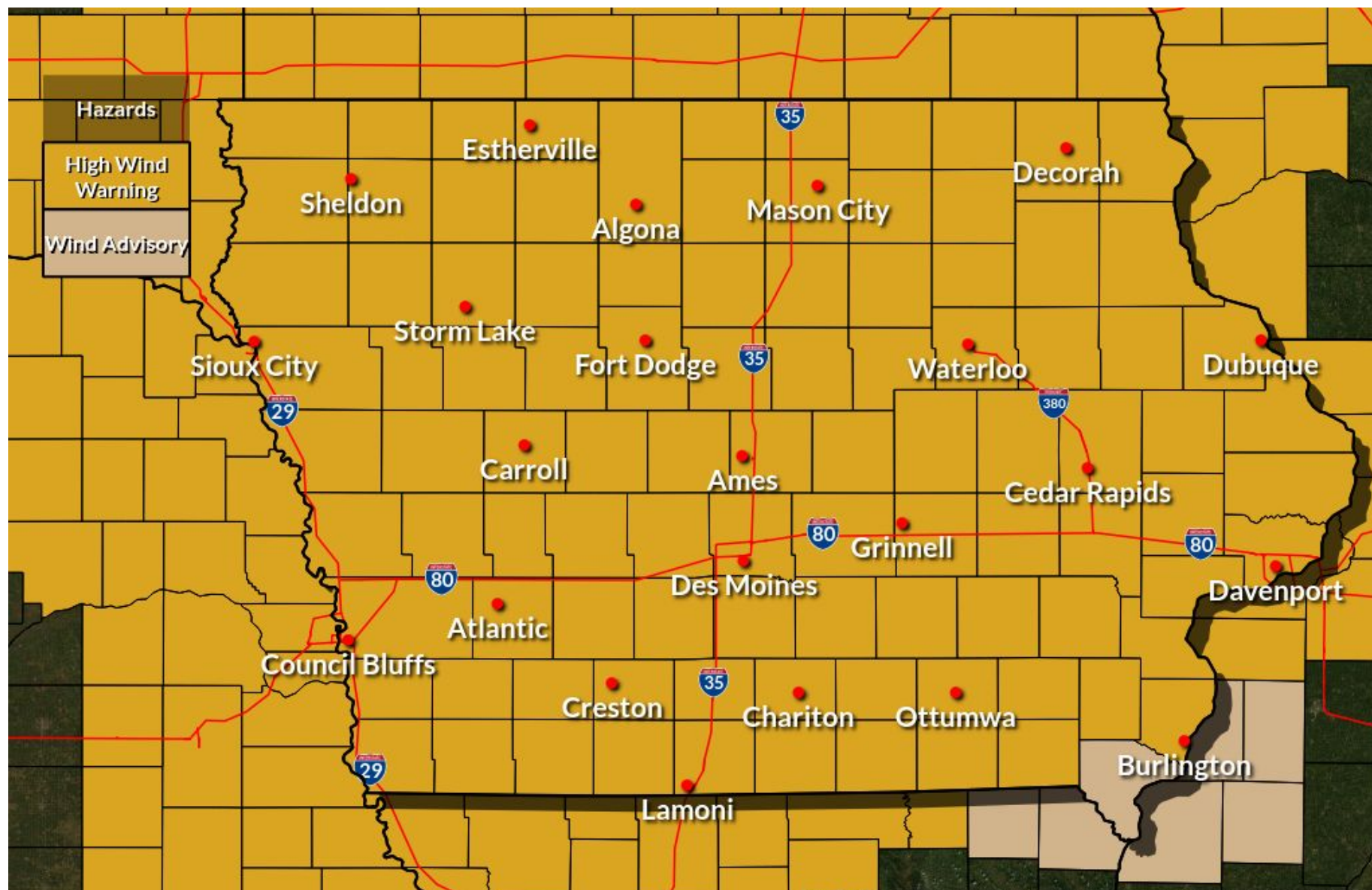
NEW

Important Updates

- Severe weather outlook updated to a **Moderate Risk**

Next Scheduled Briefing

- No further briefings scheduled unless conditions warrant



High Wind Warning Midday through Tonight



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Des Moines, Iowa



Today's Severe Weather Outlook

December 15, 2021
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Moderate Risk (4/5) for Severe Weather - Main Threats Damaging Winds and Tornadoes

Timing & Location



Storms rapidly moving west to east across central Iowa 4pm-8pm

Actions



Be weather aware and ready to act! Have multiple ways to receive warning information. Reaction time may be minimal due to the extremely fast storm motion. Storms could move through a typical Iowa county in only 20 minutes.

Severe Threats

Damaging Wind Gusts

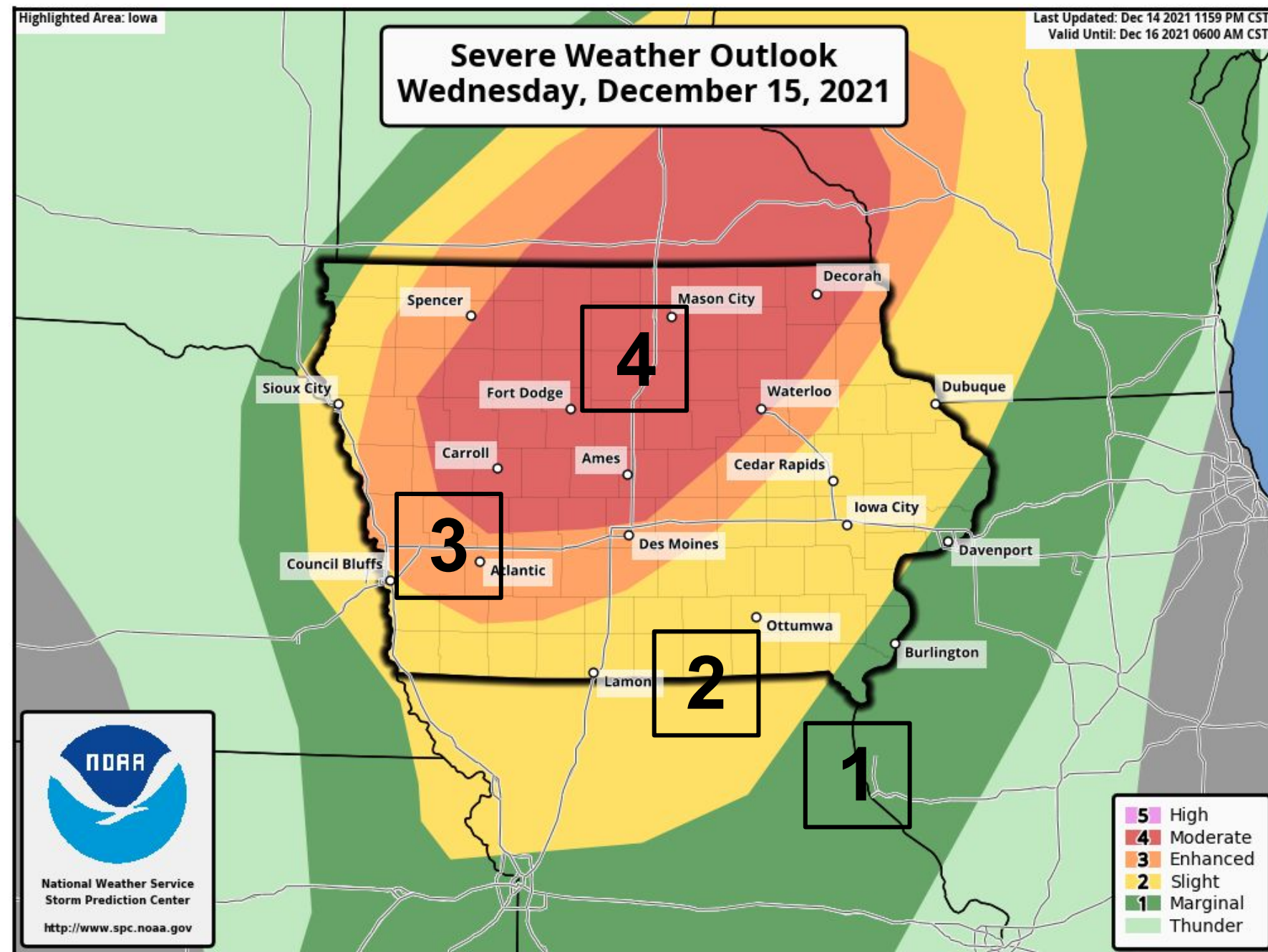


Storms may enhance strong non-thunderstorm winds already occurring with gusts to 80+ mph possible.

Few Tornadoes



Storms may enhance strong non-thunderstorm winds already occurring



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Peak Wind Gusts Late Wednesday

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What

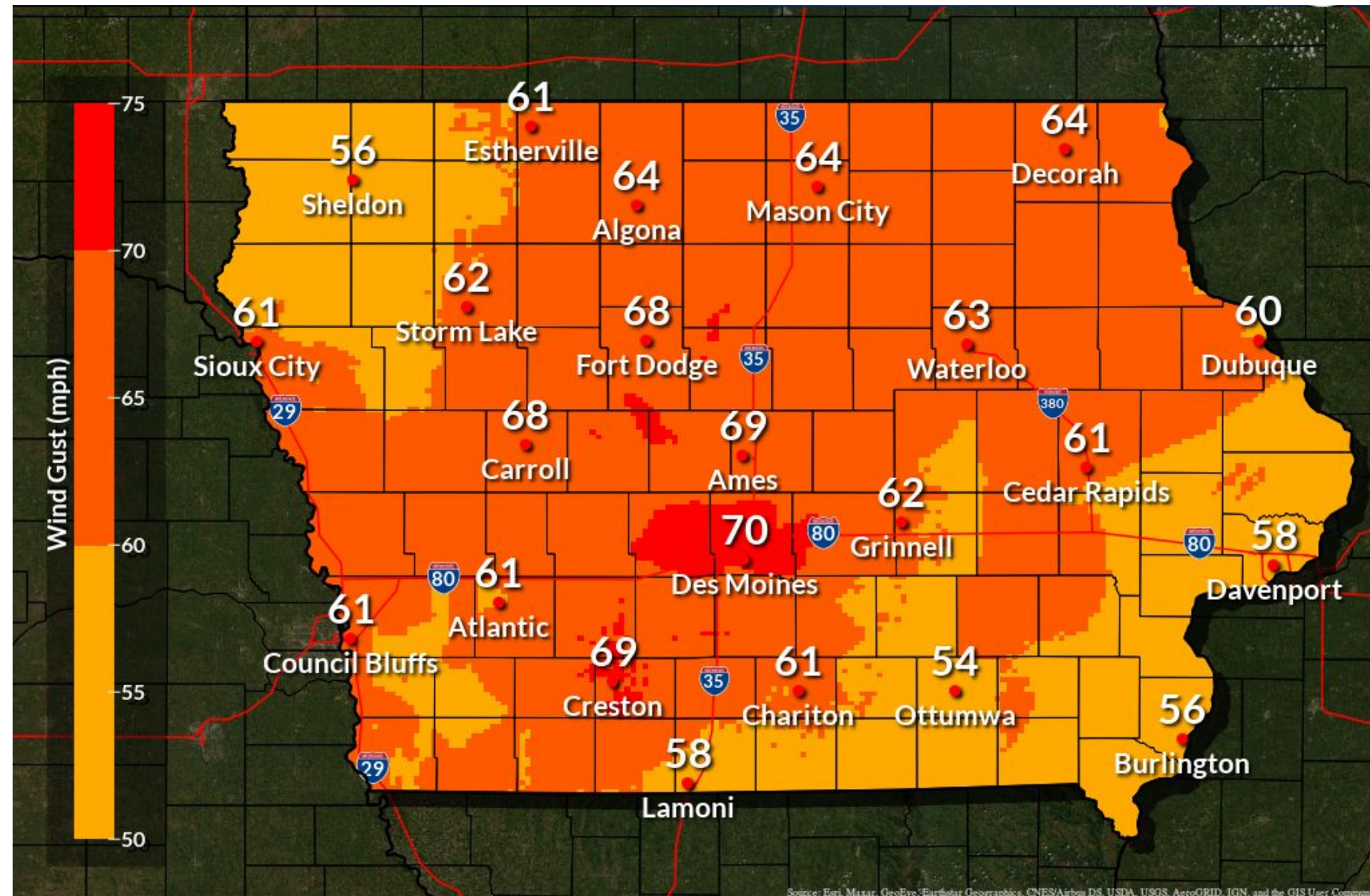
- Very strong winds out of the South, becoming West in the evening, with sustained wind speeds of 30 to 40 mph and gusts of 60 to 70 mph. Winds of this magnitude are infrequent and a rare wind event for Iowa.

Where

- Much of Iowa

When

- Strongest winds will occur late afternoon to evening hours before diminishing toward daybreak Thursday.



Peak Wind Gusts This Afternoon through Tonight



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Des Moines, Iowa



Wind Gust Speed & Timing Wed

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Strongest Winds in the Late Afternoon and Evening But Windy All Day

Key Points

- Windy much of today, but significant gusts increase in the afternoon through the evening. Diminishing somewhat very late tonight and early Thursday morning.
- Non-thunderstorm sustained speeds of 30 to 40 mph with peak gusts of 60 to 70 mph. Higher speeds possible in and near thunderstorms.
- Travel will become extremely difficult in the afternoon and evening, especially for high profile vehicles (extreme danger to semis, buses, etc)
- Impacts include tree and power line damage, power outages, elevated fire danger, and blowing dust.

Maximum Wind Gust Forecast

	12/15 Wed						12/16 Thu				
	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	Maximum
Ames	21	37	38	53	69	69	53	38	31	26	69
Carroll	28	41	48	58	67	68	54	38	31	26	68
Creston	30	43	48	66	69	63	45	37	28	23	69
Des Moines	25	38	38	58	70	69	54	37	29	23	70
Estherville	21	29	36	41	54	61	56	40	35	31	61
Fort Dodge	23	37	40	54	68	68	53	38	32	26	68
Marshalltown	26	39	40	53	64	66	54	40	31	26	66
Mason City	21	35	35	47	62	64	58	44	35	29	64
Ottumwa	23	40	39	44	53	54	44	35	28	23	54
Waterloo	25	38	37	45	61	63	53	40	32	28	63

Current Forecast Peak Wind Gusts in mph





Historical Perspective:

- February 19, 2016
 - ◆ Peak wind gusts from 55 to 65 mph
 - ◆ Several semis tipped over along I-35

- November 10, 1998
 - ◆ Peak winds from 55 to 70 mph
 - ◆ Longer duration event - strong winds lasted 2-4 hours
 - ◆ Trees and power lines downed, minor structural damage, semis blown off road

- April 25, 1996
 - ◆ Peak wind gusts from 50 to 60 mph



Moderate Risk of Severe Weather

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Storms will move very quick, must faster than usual

MODERATE RISK

Widespread severe storms likely.

Long-lived and intense storms likely.

Have multiple ways to get NWS warnings and seek shelter immediately when warnings are issued for your location.

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High Wind Safety Tips

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High Wind Safety Tips



Provide plenty of space between you and other vehicles, especially high profile vehicles such as semis and school buses.



Secure loose outdoor objects like lawn furniture, trash cans, and holiday decorations.



Avoid power lines and tall trees or any potential falling hazard.



Use two hands on the steering wheel!
That means put the phone down!



Head inside and stay away from windows.



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